Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10 at line 3 and ending on page 11 at line 6 with the following replacement:

Rotation Of The Chain Links

Ideally, the male end 110 and female end 132 will run on each other with little enough friction and wear to give acceptable service life. In light duty service, many polymers will be adequately self-lubricating. However, reinforced materials needed for heavy-duty applications contain enough reinforcement (typically 40 to 50 percent glass) to abrade each other rapidly; this was a limiting factor in early development of the chains of the invention. Also, similar materials running against each other tend to develop higher friction coefficients and, in the case of the thermoplastics, ultimately run the risk of welding together under high loads. Hence, in the embodiment of the Figure a separate bearing element 152 has been introduced in order to minimize any possible friction and wear due to abrasion at the moving surfaces. This bearing 152 consists of a simple, thin-walled cylinder or bushing of highly lubricated, dissimilar material inserted and captured between the male and female ends 132 and 136 of adjoining links 102 and 104. In the preferred embodiment, this bushing 152 is a cutoff segment of extrusion molded thermoplastic such as acetal (e.g. Delrin®, Celcon®) or an injection molded thermoplastic, e.g. thermoplastic polyurethane, heavily loaded with solid lubricant particles. Either of these methods of producing the bushing has the advantage of fine control over the inner and outer diameters of the bushing 152, by incrementally modifying the mold or extrusion die. This process enables highly repeatable fitting ~~if~~ of the bushing to the link ends in production for any desired degree of tightness in the final assembly, i.e. one can build in a little preload so that bearings break in to maximum true contact area.